

**PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS INDICATED BELOW:**

1. (Canceled).

2. (Previously amended) A mold according to claim 10, wherein the contact member of the mold which is adapted to engage with the surface of the semiconductor chip, is in the form of a removable member which is mounted on one of the mold halves.

3. (Previously presented) A mold according to claim 2, wherein the removable member is mounted for movement relative to the mold half on which it is mounted.

4. (Previously presented) A mold according to claim 3, further comprising an element operative to bias the removable member into the mold cavity defined by the mold halves.

5-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) A mold comprising:  
two mold halves,  
the mold including portions configured to define the shape of a cavity which receives molding material for encapsulating a semiconductor chip;  
one of the mold halves including an aperture extending therethrough and  
a contact member formed of a compressible material, and positioned in the aperture,  
the contact member being so shaped and positioned that it is in contact with a surface of a semiconductor chip being encapsulated in the mold.

11. (Previously presented) A mold comprising:  
two mold halves,  
the mold including portions configured to define the shape of a cavity which receives molding material for encapsulating a semiconductor chip;

one of the mold halves including an aperture extending therethrough and a contact member positioned in the aperture, the contact member being so shaped and positioned that a portion thereof is in contact with a portion of the surface of a semiconductor chip being encapsulated in the mold, and wherein the portion of the contact member which is in contact with the portion of the surface of the semiconductor chip is so profiled as to minimize seepage of molding material onto the portion of the surface of the semiconductor chip during molding.